

COINS

Error found on dollar sheets

By Roger Boye

Several lucky collectors have discovered a printing error on the uncut sheets of dollar bills they bought from Uncle Sam late last year, a goof that could make each sheet worth as much as \$1,000.

The error appears in the serial number on just one bill in an uncut sheet containing 32 bills. The serial numbers are supposed to begin with the letter "A" [which signifies the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston], but on an error bill, the letter is a "B."

Experts believe that the government printed as many as 4,200 sheets with the mistake but only 600 were sold to the public. Government workers destroyed the others once the error was discovered in late November.

At least one local coin dealer is asking \$1,075 for an error sheet he owns. Other dealers advertising in

hobby newspapers want about \$1,000 an error sheet.

Last October the government began selling to collectors uncut sheets of either 16 or 32 bills. So far, hobbyists have not discovered any errors on bills in the 16-subject sheets, and more than 98 percent of the 32-subject sheets sold to date are without printing mistakes.

Also, government bureaucrats beefed up checking procedures recently to make sure that no sheets with error bills are sold during 1982. Error-free sheets have only a modest value to collectors.

[When purchased by mail, the 32-bill sheet costs \$45, and the 16-bill sheet, \$26. The ordering address is Public Affairs Section, Sheet Sales Program, Bureau of Engraving and Printing, 14th and C Streets S.W., Washington, D.C. 20228. Allow from four to eight weeks for delivery.]